(b) if so, extent of impact of private insurance players on LIC; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to protect the interests of LIC after entry of private insurance players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS : (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that the First Premium Income (FPI) during the first 10 months of the previous financial year *i.e.* from 1st April, 2002 to 31st January, 2003 was Rs. 5,788.24 crores (provisional) as compared to the FPI of Rs.11,834.88 crore during the corresponding period of financial year 2001-2002.

(b) The LIC has informed that as per the data made available by the IRDA, the share of FPI of LIC for the period from 1st April, 2002 to 31st January, 2003 works out to 90.51% and that of the private life insurers was 9.49%.

(c) The steps taken by LIC to increase their business *inter-alia* include recruitment of more agents and their training to improve their knowledge and sales skills; utilisation of alternate channels of distribution like Corporate Agents, Bancassurance; undertaking of vigorous publicity campaigns to augment the business growth and various Customers Relations Management (CRM) initiatives to enhance the customer service.

Sale of Aviation Turbine Fuel

4717. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to treat sale of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to Air India and Indian Airlines for international operations as deemed export;

(b) if so, the likely loss of revenue to States on this account as due to it, the ATF will be free from levy of Sales Tax; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to compensate losses to States on account of Sales Tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The Government is yet to take a decision in this matter.

(b) and (c) The question of assessment of loss and subsequent compensation to States will arise after a decision is taken in this matter.